



R E P R E S E N T A T I V E
DAN
KRISTIANSEN
LEGISLATIVE REPORT



2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION: YOUR CONCERNS, MY COMMITMENT

- ✓ Protecting taxpayers
- ✓ Honoring transportation promises
- ✓ Funding the fundamentals in education
- ✓ Families before felons
- ✓ Giving health care back to families

REPRESENTATIVE
DAN KRISTIANSEN

39th Legislative District

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**2008
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SESSION:
YOUR CONCERNS,
MY COMMITMENT**



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February 2008

Dear friends,

This past November, I mailed a newsletter/survey to you entitled "In Touch." In that mailer, I requested your response on those issues important to you. Nineteen major issues were listed, plus an "other" category where you could fill in your own topic, and I asked you to rank the issues in order of their importance to you. In addition, space was provided to allow you to write your questions and/or comments.

I'd like to express my gratitude to all of you who wrote to me. I've gone through each of the numerous responses and have made phone calls to many of you who've had questions or expressed a desire to talk further with me about the issues affecting the 39th District.

Every issue you listed is very important to me. From your answers, I have compiled a short list of your five top concerns, which are among a number of issues that have my commitment as we progress through this 60-day session.

If you did not have an opportunity to fill out the survey, I encourage you to do so on my Web site at: <http://www.housepublicans.wa.gov/Kristiansen/InTouch.htm>.

If you would like information about bills specific to issues discussed in this newsletter or other issues, visit the Legislature's Web Site at: <http://www.leg.wa.gov>.

As always, I encourage you to contact me any time you have questions, comments or suggestions. It is an honor to serve you!

Sincerely,

Rep. Dan Kristiansen



REPRESENTATIVE DAN KRISTIANSEN

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

BUDGET AND TAXES

PROTECTING TAXPAYERS

- ***Adopt a responsible, sustainable supplemental budget that meets the priorities of Washington families and requires state government to live within its means, without tax increases.***



Since 2003, the state has been tapping in to taxpayers' wallets at record levels. Consider this: It took us 114 years, from statehood until 2003, to grow state spending to \$25.2 billion — and just four years to increase it by \$8.2 billion. That's a whopping 32.4 percent hike in spending. I'm wondering. . . did you get a pay increase in the last four years of 32 percent?

We need to put a stop to excessive spending now. If the Legislature cannot control its spending, it could mean future tax hikes and/or deep reductions in essential services.

We also need more transparency in the budgeting process. That's why I have sponsored House Bill 2342, a measure that would make all state budget information available to the public on a single Web site.

PROPERTY TAXES — I hear from many of you who are finding it increasingly difficult to stay in your homes and pay your property tax bills. I want to ensure greater protections against property tax increases that threaten home ownership.



**REP. DAN KRISTIANSEN AT THE STATE
CAPITOL BUILDING IN OLYMPIA.**

TRANSPORTATION

HONORING TRANSPORTATION PROMISES

- ***Provide decisive leadership and restore accountability in dealing with transportation issues. We must honor our promises to taxpayers by providing safe roads and relieving congestion to move people and goods.***

This also includes fixing U.S. Highway 2. Since 1999, 47 people have died in car accidents on U.S. Highway 2 between Snohomish and Stevens Pass. Far too many people have lost their lives on this highway including one of my friends, and this issue has become very personal for me.

I don't understand why the state can justify spending millions of dollars on artwork within our transportation system, while at the same time, not investing in the safety of U.S. Highway 2 for the protection of people's lives. The priorities of how we spend our highway dollars must change!

I have introduced several bills related specifically to the safety of U.S. Highway 2, including legislation that changes the priorities of how our highway dollars are spent, putting safety first, followed by congestion relief.

For the first time in decades, hearings are being held on U.S. Highway 2 safety funding. However, I need your help. Please contact the governor's office (360-902-4111) and legislators on the House and Senate Transportation committees (1-800-562-6000) and ask them to support my U.S. Highway 2 safety funding legislation (House Bills 2614, 2615, and 2616).

For some of our residents, U.S. Highway 2 may not be in your portion of the 39th District. However, it is only one of a few east-west routes across the Cascades and you or your friends may be driving it when the North Cascades Highway closes in the winter. So it really affects all of us. That's why I have proposed more U.S. Highway 2 funding legislation than any other legislator in recent decades. We need to get this problem solved now!



CRIME AND PUBLIC SAFETY

FAMILIES BEFORE FELONS

- ***Protect our kids and neighborhoods by putting families before felons, empowering local communities to address DUI- and drug-related crimes, and adopting more effective sentencing and monitoring of sex offenders.***

I have serious concerns about the governor's proposal to set up sobriety checkpoints on our highways. There are better ways of addressing the problem of drunk drivers without infringing on everyone's rights. A number of proposals are under consideration in the Legislature, including my legislation, House Bill 1471, which would eliminate the ability of people to use "I was too drunk to know what I was doing" as a criminal defense. Until the consequences of DUI are more painful than the action, people will continue drinking and driving. That's why we need stronger deterrents.

We also need additional community protections against sex offenders, such as real-time GPS monitoring for all Level Three sex offenders.



HEALTH CARE GIVING HEALTH CARE BACK TO FAMILIES

- ***Give health care choices back to families by allowing affordable, flexible coverage that will work best for them.***



While we have seen very limited success in lowering the cost of health insurance for some groups, we need to make sure all citizens have the ability to obtain more affordable health care. We need to address the root cause of what drives up health insurance costs. We also need to ensure competition in the insurance marketplace which lowers costs and increases access.

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

To get more information about bills specific to these or other issues, visit the Legislature's Web site at: www.leg.wa.gov.

MORE ISSUES TO ADDRESS. . . PLEASE CALL, E-MAIL OR WRITE ME!

While this newsletter covers the top five issues listed by you in my recent survey, we have many other issues facing the district which may not be mentioned here (higher education, environment, natural resources, jobs and the economy, seniors, veterans, and more), but of which I am also working to address in the Legislature. As always, I welcome your thoughts. Should you have questions, comments or suggestions, please let me know. Here's some helpful contact information for you:

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